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Title: Need to increase the honorarium of Anganwadi workers and helpers.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): Thank you very much, Sir,

I would like to draw the attention of this august House, through you, to a very important matter. There are over six lakh *Anganwadis* in this country and over 12 lakh women are working in *Anganwadis* as workers and helpers. They are working as part of the Integrated Child Development Scheme. The *Anganwadi* workers and helpers are doing a yeoman service to the society. The Scheme is meant for the wholesome development of mothers, pregnant women and children. Now, it is also covering adolescent girls. The honorarium given to these workers and helpers is a pittance.

During the last Budget Session, it was announced by the Government that the honorarium would be doubled or at least enhanced. Though many months have passed since the Budget Session, nothing has been done to execute this announcement. I would request the Union Government, through you, to examine the matter and execute this at the earliest with retrospective effect.